

Brief History of Art and design

20th-21st century

# 04 Minimalism and Brutalism

(1950–1980)

VOCABULARY  
for English lesson



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**LAMV**  
LIEPĀJAS MŪZIKAS,  
MĀKSLAS un DIZAINA  
VIDUSSKOLA



SUPŠ:UH

**Empower ED**

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# VOCABULARY

Study the vocabulary list below.

1. Minimalism - A design philosophy that emphasizes simplicity and the reduction of elements to their essential features, often prioritizing functionality and aesthetics.
2. Brutalism - An architectural style that originated from the French word for "raw," focusing on exposed materials and a skeletal structure, often perceived as stark and unrefined.
3. Aesthetics - The principles concerned with the nature and appreciation of beauty in art and design, influencing how designs are perceived by viewers.
4. Functionality - The quality of being suited to serve a purpose, particularly in design where usability and practical application are prioritized.
5. UI (User Interface) - The means by which a user interacts with a computer, software, or application, including elements such as buttons, menus, and icons.
6. Geometric Forms - Shapes that are defined by mathematical principles, often used in minimalist art to create clarity and structure.
7. Monochromatic - A colour scheme that utilizes variations of a single colour, creating a unified and cohesive look often found in brutalist design.
8. Skeletal Framework - The basic structure of a design that supports its overall form, often exposed in brutalist architecture to showcase raw materials.
9. Stripped-down - Referring to a design that has been simplified by removing non-essential elements, a characteristic feature of brutalism.
10. Limited Colour Palette - The use of a small selection of colours in design, which helps to maintain focus and simplicity, common in minimalist art.
11. Emphasis - The importance or prominence given to certain aspects of a design, guiding viewer attention and interaction.
12. Raw Materials - The basic, unprocessed materials used in construction or design that are often showcased in brutalist architecture.
13. Enduring Popularity - The sustained appeal of a style or trend over time, as seen in minimalism's consistent acceptance in web design.
14. Design Trends - The prevailing styles or movements in design that influence how art and architecture evolve over time.
15. Contemporary Design Values - The current principles and standards that guide modern design practices, often reflecting ideas of simplicity, honesty, and functionality.

**TASK 1:**

**Fill in the sentences with the most appropriate words/terms from the vocabulary bank above.**

1. The principle of \_\_\_\_\_ encourages artists to strip away unnecessary elements, focusing solely on the essence of their work.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ often evokes strong reactions due to its unapologetic use of concrete and angular shapes in urban architecture.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of minimalistic art invite viewers to find beauty in simplicity and restraint.
4. When designing a gallery space, attention to \_\_\_\_\_ can enhance the visitor's experience through intuitive navigation and clear signage.
5. Many architects incorporate \_\_\_\_\_ into their designs, creating visually engaging structures that challenge conventional norms.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ palette in her painting allowed the subtle textures to capture the viewer's attention without distraction.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the building highlighted its structural integrity while providing a raw yet elegant appearance.
8. Artists often choose \_\_\_\_\_ like unrefined wood or steel to emphasise the authenticity of their creations.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ of minimalist art suggests that fewer elements can resonate deeply with audiences across generations.
10. Embracing \_\_\_\_\_, the new exhibition space balances functionality with an aesthetic that reflects current artistic trends.

**TASK 2:**

**Write an appropriate term from the box next to each definition given below!**

BALANCE    PURIFIED    RESTRAINT    GEOMETRIC    CLUTTER    MONOCHROMATIC    EMPHASIS  
 AESTHETICALLY    SERENE    LEGIBILITY    TYPOGRAPHY    OBJECTHOOD    FUNCTIONALITY  
 NEGATIVE SPACE    RAW MATERIALS

1	A condition in which different elements are equal or in the correct proportions; in minimalist art, it creates visual stability and harmony.	
2	The act of holding back or controlling; in art and design, it refers to the deliberate limitation of elements to achieve simplicity.	
3	Calm, peaceful, and untroubled; this quality is often sought after in minimalist spaces and designs.	
4	A disorganized collection of things; in minimalist design, reducing clutter is essential to create a clean and serene environment.	
5	The quality of being clear enough to read; an important aspect in minimalist design to ensure effective communication.	
6	The style and appearance of printed matter; in graphic design, it concerns the arrangement and appearance of text to ensure clarity.	
7	In a manner related to beauty or the appreciation of beauty; often used to describe the artistic value of a work.	
8	Made free from any contamination or imperfection; in art, it refers to stripping away unnecessary elements to reveal true essence.	
9	Pertaining to shapes and figures that are defined by mathematical principles; often used in minimalist art to create structure.	
10	Utilizing only one colour or varying shades of a single colour; a common technique in minimalist artworks to emphasize form.	
11	Special importance or significance placed on something; in art, it highlights specific elements to draw the viewer's attention.	
12	The quality of being an object; in minimalist art, it refers to presenting artworks as physical entities without narrative or symbolism.	
13	The quality of being suited to serve a purpose; in design, it focuses on the usefulness of objects over decorative elements.	
14	The empty or unoccupied areas around and between subjects in an artwork; it plays a crucial role in creating balance and harmony.	
15	Unprocessed or minimally processed materials; in minimalist design, it emphasizes the natural qualities of the substances used.	